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Contact: Trudy F. Podobas  
Phone: 949.230.4661  
Email: tfpodobas@cox.net

**Democratic Women of South Orange County  
Announces Class of 2022 Scholarship Awards  
June 13, 2022**

As Co-Chair of the DWSOC Scholarship Committee, I introduce to you our entire Committee here this evening to present our 2022 Scholarship Awardees:

Margie Black, Co-Chair  
Susan Goggins  
Susanne Dachgruber  
Molly Kempson (our first year member extraordinaire and SCHS Graduate)

This was the 5<sup>th</sup> Year of our Scholarship Program and we thank you, the DWSOC Membership, for your continuous support of our Program. We awarded six (6) Scholarships this year at both SCHS and SJHHS at the May 19 Senior Awards Nights Ceremony held at each High School. The photos of each are on the screen behind me!

Susan Goggins represented DWSOC at SCHS and awarded Scholarships to:

Madeline McDonald  
Reaghan Mulligan  
Psi Padhya  
Brooklyn Staab

Molly Kempson represented DWSOC at SJHHS and awarded Scholarships to:

Sandhya Ganesan  
Mai-Ly Wilkinson

All of the Awardees shown are here tonight and we will introduce them shortly. The only exception is SJHHS's Sandhya Ganesan who could not be here but you'll meet her via video at the end of our presentation.

The awarding of DWSOC Scholarships this year was again made possible by the generous donations of Friends of DWSOC and members. We thank the following individuals for their continuing support:

Ruth Clark  
Fran Sdao  
Kim Anderson  
Linda Verraster  
Susan Goggins  
Colleen Conley  
Christine Widaman  
Linda McLaughlin  
Yvonne Ybarra  
Renee Neighbours  
Sherine Smith

Heartfelt thanks to our 2022 Scholarship Committee members (with special recognition to our newest member Molly Kempson) who revised our Application with three (3) new Essay topics to coincide with our club's 2022 Fundraising Theme Defending Our Democracy:

1. Democracy now post January 6 is under attack – what can we do to defend it?
2. As envisioned by the late Civil Rights Leader John Lewis, what are you doing to make your community more Right, Fair and Just?
3. Discuss one issue that is hindering Democratic Ideals and how should leaders work to solve the problem?

Our Committee was unanimous in the rubric scoring of our Awardees and were very impressed with how all of our Awardees wrote their Essays. For the first time in five years, one of our Awardees received almost perfect five's in scoring!

Our Awardees all took Honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Classes at their High Schools. They were inducted into the National Honors Society and the California Scholarship Federation.

The issues of our time drew our Awardees into leading other students in the CUSD Cultural Proficiency Task Force, the Students Against Racism, LGBTQ+ Rights Advocacy and the BRIDGES program, a task force affiliated with OC Human Relations – all dedicated to building a collaborative, communicative, inclusive and driven team of advocates at their respective High Schools.

One of our Awardees lead a Journalism series of articles on race, gender and social equality that drew attacks from a group of angry, anti-mask parents and organized by one of the CUSD Trustees. The bullying and harassment of these students and CUSD in their efforts to promote freedom of speech actually caused one of the CUSD Trustees (representing SJC) and just elected in 2020 to resign! YES, elections matter and what matters most are the local elections of School Board Members!

Our Awardees volunteering in their school's Freshman Mentoring Program, Tutored Elementary and Middle School students, and in organizations such as Girls, Inc., the HER Drive and Kathy's House for Women. Of course, our Awardees also lead their High School Democratic Clubs and volunteered for local candidate campaigns.

We required that each student have a Recommendation Survey and/or Letter submitted on their behalf from a teacher/mentor/coach. Recommenders this year were top High School Journalism, English, AVID and AP US Government Teachers.

Our Awardees future field of studies include: Journalism, Chemistry/Biology, Political Science, Computer Engineering, Environmental Studies, English and Foreign Languages.

Our Awardees future plans are in Public Service, Law, Medicine, Business, Environmental Engineering – all in goals of policy reforms in each of their areas of interest.

Our Awardees will attend schools such as Berkely, Princeton, UCI, Fordham, the University of San Francisco, UC Santa Cruz and Pace University. We wish them all the very best and can't wait to see the Places They Will Go.

We have asked each of them in personalized award letters to assist DWSOC in helping get out the Youth Vote this November. Several of our Awardees are already accomplished Video and Film artists and they can help us in Social Media to get our Youth to Vote this November. We will NOT succeed in November if the voter turnout is only 19% as it was in last weeks June California Primary!!

We now present to you each of your 2022 Scholarship Winners. Their envelope includes their Award Check and also a Gift Book from DWSOC – Amanda Gorman’s 2021 Joe Biden Inaugural Poem “The Hill We Climb” – The Hill We Climb is also our 2022 Theme!!

In alphabetical order: (Guests to stand when Awardee name is read)

1. Madeline McDonald (guest Mother Diane McDonald)
2. Reaghan Mulligan (guest Mother Rachel Mulligan)
3. Psi Padhya (guest Mother Kajal Padhya and Aunt Sona Padhya)
4. Brooklyn Staab (guest Mother Debbie Staab)
5. Mai-Ly Wilkinson (guest Mother Tam Tran Wilkinson)
6. Here is a **video introduction to our sixth Awardee Sandhya Ganesan**